



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - January 16, 2002

- ***In the West***, isolated showers are providing little relief from an intensifying dry spell in the ***Four Corners region***. Meanwhile, cool, dry weather prevails in the ***Northwest***, following a two-month wet spell that eased long-term drought and improved summer water-supply prospects. In ***California's San Joaquin Valley***, where this morning's temperatures fell as low as 30 degrees F, scattered frost caused little concern in citrus areas.
- ***On the Plains***, cooler weather is helping to sustain the hardiness of the wheat crop, which was stressed by last week's record warmth. However, dry, breezy conditions continue to leave winter wheat vulnerable to soil erosion and potential temperature extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, light snow showers are developing, although mild temperatures and a general lack of snow cover continue to favor livestock, overwintering wheat, and off-season fieldwork.
- ***In the South***, pastures and winter grains in the ***southern Atlantic region*** continue to benefit from recent soil moisture improvements, although additional rain is needed. Meanwhile in the ***Delta***, a month of mostly dry weather has allowed lowland flooding to subside and has aided previously saturated winter wheat stands.

Outlook: A series of disturbances will rapidly cross the U.S. during the next several days, bringing occasional rain to the ***South*** and periods of light snow to the ***Northeast***. Scattered snow showers are likely in the ***Midwest***, but mostly dry weather will persist on the ***Plains***. Through early next week, bitterly cold weather will be confined to the ***north-central U.S.***, east of the ***northern High Plains' winter wheat-producing region***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 21-25 calls for cool weather to continue across the ***northern Plains*** and the ***Northwest***, accompanied by a beneficial pattern of above-normal precipitation. Wet weather is also forecast across the ***South and East***, although above-normal temperatures are expected in these areas. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather is forecast across the ***central and southern Plains and the Corn Belt***.

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